

## Freedom of Information Act Disclosure log - Reply Extract

File reference	W21FOI220
Key words	Porters Employed by the Trust, System used to Dispatch Porters, Total Acute Care Beds
Date of release	05/08/2021
Attachments	No

### You asked

Can the University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust please provide 4 responses to the 4 questions below:

1. **Can the Trust please provide the total number porters that are currently employed/ contracted to perform porter services across the Trust's Hospitals? (This total number of porters can include individual part-time, bank and permanent porter staff that are directly employed by the Trust or porter support procured through a private service provider).**

There is currently a total number of 157 porters including Centralised Porters, Hotels Services porters and those employed by NHS Professionals in a temporary or ad-hoc basis.

2. **Can the Trust please identify the name(s) of the current system(s) used by Trust staff to dispatch porters to jobs around the Trust's Hospitals on a daily basis? (e.g. Push To Talk Radio / Bleeper, Smart Phone / Tablet Application, Excel Spreadsheet, Paper-based System and/or Task Management Software on a Computer). By "Dispatch" we refer to the process of activating an individual Porter to take on a specific Job with the hospital.**

The main system used is a task management solution called Synbiotix. The task request is manual inputted in the system dashboard and it can be either automatically or manually assigned to the porters available. The porters use a handheld device (pda) that communicates with the main system to receive the assigned task. There are some exceptions in some areas where porters are requested via "tannoy" speaker, radio or paper based.

3. **Can the Trust please provide clarification on the current contractual relationship of porter support, by this I mean - are porters directly employed by the Trust? or can the Trust provide both the name of the private provider contracted to deliver porter services and the time frame remaining on that contract until review?**

Porters are directly employed by the Trust.  
The Trust used NHS Professionals for temporary / ad-hoc Porter support.

**4. Finally can the Trust please provide an updated estimate of the total number of 'acute care' beds currently dispersed across its hospital site(s)?**

As at 04/08/2021 UHP has 1052 established beds across its 5 sites, including Adult and Paediatric General and Acute, Critical Care and Maternity beds and cots.

The number of beds available is not static. The Trust is required to submit its bed occupancy via the KH03 return. This can be accessed here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/bed-availability-and-occupancy/>.

This provides the general and acute bed numbers (as reported in the Sitrep dataset).

**Attachments included: No**